**COVIF FORCES CHANGES TO CLASS SCHEDULE AND REGISTRAR ARRANGER**

By Tiffany Xiao "23 Reporter

Circumstances surrounding the pandemic have forced nearly one-fifth of Choate’s student body to learn remotely—so we had to accommodate students taking classes in nearly every time zone across the globe. The Registrar’s Office quickly adapted to the new situation by creating a new schedule that allows all students to learn in a reasonable time, no matter their location. In the past, the daily schedule combined five class blocks every day, between 8:00 a.m. and 3:20 p.m., Wallingford time. However, when the school unexpectedly had to switch to online learning last spring, many students, especially those living outside of the United States, needed to stay up until 10:40 a.m. class in Wallingford because a 2:30 a.m. class in Asia. To mitigate some of these problems, the new schedule has seven class blocks—some in the morning and others as late as 10:40 p.m. ET—in order to give students more options.

While these changes in the schedule have benefitted many students, they have also created new challenges. Kaye Tray ‘24, a day student, has classes during both nighttime blocks. As a new student familiarizing herself with campus, this schedule was difficult: she had long stretches of free time during the day and felt like she had nowhere to go when hundreds of students returned to the school. She added, "I found it much more helpful to have a block system, because this schedule allows us to have longer classes, an easier habit for me, but it was hard to see the kids work. They can share their screen, but it’s not seamless as being able to walk around," added Ms. Neal.

"A dance teacher, teaching on Zoom is a nightmare. The latency issues, the breakout rooms, the pre-class check-ins, the difficulty of live grading, doom a standard 1:00 p.m. class in Wallingford time. This means that rehearsals for the Arts Department are often displaced to different time zones, making it hard for select classes such as those in the States, needed to stay up until 10:40 a.m. class in Wallingford because a 2:30 a.m. class in Asia. To mitigate some of these problems, the new schedule has seven class blocks—some in the morning and others as late as 10:40 p.m. ET—in order to give students more options.

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By Alexis Lien ’23
Staff Reporter

SDLC really helped me figure out where to go from here, and realize that love for this school is why I want to be here.

SDLC (Student Diversity Leadership Conference) is an annual event hosted by the Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) virtually for the first time. Now in its 25th year, the SDLC is an international event held for high school students to learn about backgrounds and cultures.

Among the attendees from Choate were Ana-Gi Ortis ’22, Lulu Rees-Prochnik ’23, Dejene Fikre ’22, Aso Mala ’22, Adam Weis ’23, and Tristan Harte ’24. Several faculty members, including Chair of Diversity and Inclusion Mr. Richard Beyers and Associate Director Mr. Filipe Camarote, participated in the co-organizing MAPS Program of Color Conference (PoCC).

Although the style of the event was unprecedented, the SDLC was fully engaged in conversations and workshops that understood and community building. According to attendees, the keynote speakers in the conference involved social issues, such as anti-racism and cultural humility, to encourage dialogue and act on those ideas.

The event was unprecedented, with prospective students and families able to attend through Zoom. For applicants who were not able to attend, there are recordings of the sessions available for access on the Experience Choate Today website, which was created especially for this year’s attendees. Although these Choate events cannot replace the in-person Choate’s campus in person, the Admission Office is excited that prospective students and families can still access so much information about Choate through these panels and virtual tours.

Alexis Lien
Staff Reporter

The meat of the strenuous challenges that the Choate community faced this term, the administration made the decision to cancel teacher term reports for the fall.

In previous years, faculty wrote term reports for each of their students at the end of every trimester. A long-standing practice, term reports are designed to encourage teachers to reflect on their performance during the term and adjust accordingly for the following one.

As mentioned by Mr. Velez, “every student has a chance to grow and change during the three trimesters. A long-standing practice, term reports are designed to encourage teachers to reflect on their performance during the term and adjust accordingly.”

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The administration of the Office of Admissions has also changed due to COVID-19, where an Admission Office oversees a certain territory or community, the Admission Office where different recruitment events focus on different aspects of the Choate experience. Over the past several years, the Admission Office selected different themes for current students and faculty members to address in the events. For the past several years, different Admission Office events have included the Sherman Program, Days of Reflection, and a more equitable and inclusive community. She said, "SDLC really helped me figure out where to go from here, and realize that love for this school is why I want to be here."
Connecticut PREPARES FOR VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

By Linda Phan ’22
Copy Editor

Following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on December 11, Connecticut’s vacation distribution plan as the state’s Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Vaccine gubernatorial task force issued a Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) statement that Connecticut’s vaccine provider locations are vaccinating individuals over the age of 65, along with those who have underlying conditions, in order to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to receive their first dose by the end of the year. The task force also announced that the plan will prioritize healthcare workers, long-term care facility residents, and medical first responders. The governor also stressed that the vaccine should be accessible to all Connecticut residents.

Before the vaccine was approved by the FDA, vaccine provider locations at the vaccine administration management (VAM) site. Dr. Deborah Balchow, who serves on the state’s Department of Public Health (DPH), the vaccine distribution plan will prioritize healthcare workers, long-term care facility residents, and medical first responders. The governor also stressed that the vaccine should be accessible to all Connecticut residents.

With COVID-19 cases on the rise in Connecticut, vaccination rates have never looked as dire as they are this year. Long periods of social isolation have left many searching for a spark of joy and normalcy during this holiday season. While previous holiday-themed events involved dressing up displays with large crowds, the ongoing pandemic has forced businesses to either shut down or implement new safety guidelines. The Symphony of Lights show at the New Haven Coliseum was held by Goodwill to be Ohio’s annual fund-raising event that is celebrating its 25th year. In the past, the popular holiday tradition has attracted thousands of visitors statewide, once even digitally, offering a display and holiday-themed character exhibits. Given the reality of this pandemic, the organization has found an innovative way to follow social distance guidelines by requiring all visitors to wear a mask and practice social distancing. The event is open to the public and will run through the month of December.

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The annual Magic of Lights event at Toyota Oakdale Theater helps illuminate the season of giving and the critical workforce. Every year, the event has helped raise awareness and funds for local charities and nonprofit organizations. This year, the event features a variety of displays and performances, including Christmas lights, holiday music, and holiday-themed characters.

However, the transition to virtual events has been an unexpected obstacle to Connecticut’s vaccination plan. According to science, one of the main obstacles facing the vaccine program is the need for healthcare providers to have access to the vaccines. While there are currently distribution plans in place, the vaccines may present an obstacle to Connecticut’s vaccination program. As many vaccines as planned. A recent distribution fact sheet, distribution plans. According to other obstacles to Connecticut’s vaccination program is the need for healthcare providers to have access to the vaccines. While there are currently distribution plans in place, the vaccines may present an obstacle to Connecticut’s vaccination program. As many vaccines as planned.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc around the world, the North Farms Company’s annual Christmas Tree event at Wollaston Park in Norwalk has offered familiar holiday and holiday cheer through the rough times. The event has been a way for the community to come together and support local businesses. While around seven to eight trees are sold each year, the event has been a way for the community to come together and support local businesses. While around seven to eight trees are sold each year, the event has been a way for the community to come together and support local businesses. While around seven to eight trees are sold each year, the event has been a way for the community to come together and support local businesses. While around seven to eight trees are sold each year, the event has been a way for the community to come together and support local businesses. While around seven to eight trees are sold each year, the event has been a way for the community to come together and support local businesses.
Letters to the Editors

The Chooate News asked its readers to submit letters for publication. Here is a selection of letters that were published in The Choate News in November 2020.

Dear Mr. Murtagh,
Thank you for your article on the role of kindness in the world. I believe that kindness is a powerful force that can bring people together and create a more positive world. I am inspired by the stories you shared, and I am committed to being kind in my own life. Let us all strive to make the world a better place.
Sincerely,
[Name]

In your recent article on the importance of resilience, you mentioned the role of family and friends in providing support during difficult times. I couldn't agree more. As a student, I have found that my family and friends have been invaluable in helping me navigate challenges and stay motivated. I am grateful for the support I have received and am committed to paying it forward to others.
Sincerely,
[Name]

I am a current Chooate student and I have noticed a trend in the school's emphasis on extracurricular activities. While I understand the value of these activities, I believe that there is a need to balance them with a focus on academic achievement. As a student, I have found that a strong foundation in academics is essential for success in college and beyond. Let us work together to ensure that our students have a well-rounded education.
Sincerely,
[Name]

As a parent, I am concerned about the impact of social media on my child. I have noticed that my child spends a lot of time on social media, and I am worried about the effects of this on their mental health and well-being. I am committed to creating a safe and supportive environment at home and encouraging my child to engage in positive activities.
Sincerely,
[Name]

As a teacher, I have observed the impact of the pandemic on our students. While remote learning has allowed us to continue our education, it has also been challenging. I am committed to supporting my students and helping them navigate this unprecedented time.
Sincerely,
[Name]
A protest in Warsaw in mid-November against Poland's abortion ban. The abortion law and, more broadly, the rise of the far-right in Poland has violated the ability of the Democrats for the Common Good, a political party on which it is founded.

Senator David Perdue was absent from Georgia Senate debate.

On October 22, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration approved Pfizer’s coronavirus vaccine, authorizing the first shipment of vaccines to the 50 states.

On December 14, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration approved Pfizer’s coronavirus vaccine, authorizing the first shipment of vaccines to the 50 states.

By Emma Ding ’24

The holiday season is right around the corner and the holidays are a time for giving. With the increased social distancing and holiday gatherings, we are giving our loved ones gifts that we hope they will enjoy. Whether you give gifts to your family or friends, you should be aware of the impact of your gift choices on the environment and society.

To make your gift giving more sustainable, consider the following tips:

1. Practicality: What is the most practical gift that you can give? This could be a tool, a kitchen gadget, or a specific item that someone needs and will use. Practical gifts are often less wasteful and more thoughtful.

2. Unexpectedness: What would someone be most surprised to receive? Think outside the box and consider giving a unique or unexpected gift that they wouldn’t have thought of themselves. This could be a handmade item, a subscription to a new magazine, or a gift card to a local business.

3. Meaningfulness: What is the most meaningful gift that you can give? Consider giving a gift that has personal significance to the recipient. This could be a photo album, a piece of art, or a gift that represents something that is important to them.

4. Uniqueness: What is the most unique gift that you can give? Consider giving a gift that is rare or hard to find. This could be a limited edition item, a rare book, or a piece of handmade jewelry.

With these tips in mind, you can give gifts that are thoughtful, practical, and meaningful. Happy Holidays!

Emma Ding ’24
As long as I have enough videos, I can create a concert and send them out,” said Madon.

“Music transcends all cultures, ages, and generational barriers, and I believe that music can really bring us together,” Tejuoso said. “As an independent artist, I'm mainly gaining exposure through social media such as Instagram and YouTube. All information about my music can be found on my professional website, luwa.com. “You” is available on all major digital streaming platforms, and the official music video can be found on the Luwa YouTube channel today.”

For Tejuoso, singing has been an inseparable part of her life and identity for as long as she can remember. Though she has always been interested in songwriting and composing, Tejuoso had been wary of writing songs due to fears of creating a piece she isn’t completely satisfied with. “I knew how much I love music, and the idea of making a song that wasn’t as good as the music that I listen to just scared me. Being a perfectionist, it’s either a hundred or a zero in my mind,” said Tejuoso.

“I felt that everything is coming together, I felt that this is happening, and it is becoming something serious,” Tejuoso said. “When recording ‘You,’ Tejuoso was contacted by a professional music video producer, and all these factors seem to pull me away from becoming an artist.”

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Senior Hockey Players Prepare for Junior Hockey

By GoSeagull '22

Every year, several Choate Hockey players decide to play in the following years in non-collegiate leagues instead of going to college hockey. The USA Hockey leagues focus on player development and the ages range from the ages of 16 to 20. After playing for the junior league, these players will go on to play Division I, II, or III in college. In fact, according to USA Hockey's official website, junior leagues are divided into two fraternities of DI teams nationwide, four fraternities of DII teams nationwide, and five fraternities of DI teams nationwide. As the junior league is known among many players, it is members of the league in the facilities players' development. Players are pushed to their absolute limits, but with this hard work comes significant results.

GoSeagull '22

"I’m an athlete, "GoSeagull '22, a former junior league player, said, "I’ve had some of the most enjoyable experiences of my life in the junior leagues."

That work has paid off, GoSeagull '22 added. "In college, I was able to take college hockey to the next level."

"I’ve had the opportunity to play in one of the top junior leagues in the country, and I’ve been able to compete against the best players in the nation," said Captain Supriya Chang '21. "On the ice, all my hard work and dedication has paid off."

"I’ve had many memorable moments on the ice," Chang added. "I’ve learned a lot about myself and what I’m capable of, and I’ve made lifelong friendships."

"I’m grateful for the opportunity to play in the junior leagues," Chang said. "I’ve learned so much about myself and what I’m capable of."